

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A moving picture decoding method which generates a predicted image using information on motion vectors and information on reference images, the moving picture decoding method having multiple prediction modes including a mode without motion vector decoding, comprising:

a step of selecting a frame(s) to be referenced to in the prediction of each prediction direction in the prediction mode from among multiple candidate reference frames; and

a step of selecting motion vector information used in the prediction mode, wherein

said step of selecting motion vector information is performed based on whether blocks adjacent to a current block have a motion vector; and

moving picture decoding is performed by generating said predicted image using the information on said selected reference frame and the information on said selected motion vectors in said prediction mode.